

Agency 351

**State School For The Blind****Recommendation Summary**

Dollars in Thousands

	Annual FTEs	General Fund State	Other Funds	Total Funds
<b>2005-07 Expenditure Authority</b>	82.5	10,434	1,373	11,807
<b>Total Maintenance Level</b>	82.0	11,119	1,453	12,572
Difference	(.5)	685	80	765
Percent Change from Current Biennium	(0.5)%	6.6%	5.8%	6.5%
<b>Performance Changes</b>				
Braille Transcription Program	1.5	124		124
Graduate Transition Program	1.0	86		86
Outreach Pilot Program	1.5	254		254
Revise Pension Gain-Sharing #		(42)	(20)	(62)
Nonrepresented Staff Health Benefit		25	13	38
WFSE Collective Bargaining Agreement		412	103	515
Nonrepresented Staff Salary Change		156	41	197
Self Insurance Premium		2		2
<b>Subtotal</b>	4.0	1,017	137	1,154
<b>Total Proposed Budget</b>	86.0	12,136	1,590	13,726
Difference	3.6	1,702	217	1,919
Percent Change from Current Biennium	4.3%	16.3%	15.8%	16.3%
<b>Total Proposed Budget by Activity</b>				
Administration	12.4	1,837	23	1,860
Braille Production and Distribution	5.4	159		159
Intensive Training Opportunities	21.1	2,685	30	2,715
Off-Campus Services to Students/Districts	12.1	883	1,367	2,250
On-Campus 24-Hour Educational Program	34.0	4,862	99	4,961
Student Transportation	1.0	826		826
Other Statewide Adjustments		884	71	955
<b>Total Proposed Budget</b>	86.0	12,136	1,590	13,726

**PERFORMANCE LEVEL CHANGE DESCRIPTIONS****Braille Transcription Program**

In 1997, the School for the Blind's Braille Access Center (BAC) entered into a partnership with the Washington Corrections Center for Women (WCCW) to train offenders to become transcribers. The program has grown and now has ten highly trained transcribers. Funding will allow BAC to increase hours for the proofing and printing staff in order to keep up with the demand for Braille textbooks and the Braille needs of adults. Additional program costs will be recovered by charging fees for services, but state support will keep text costs low for blind citizens. This funding also will support continued collaboration between the School for the Blind and WCCW.

## **EDUCATION - OTHER**

### **Graduate Transition Program**

Many blind/visually impaired students are graduating from Washington schools without all the specialized skill training they need in order to be successful. To assist students in this transition, WSSB has piloted a fifth year program that provides training in orientation and mobility, daily living skills, career development, and work experience. This intensive, one-year program had a 87.5 percent success rate in the three-year pilot. Increased funding will allow the school to expand the program to serve up to five additional students per year.

### **Outreach Pilot Program**

Because one-tenth of one percent of the school age population is blind, many districts have not been able to provide services, locate qualified teachers, or retain personnel. The current service delivery models for blind and visually impaired children are not always the most effective or efficient in meeting their needs, especially in eastern Washington where resources are limited and children live over wide geographical areas. Funding will enable the School to develop a regional services program in collaboration with Educational Service District 105. State funding will pay for program infrastructure, and local school districts will pay for the direct service costs of this program.

### **Self Insurance Premium**

Funding is provided to cover the minimum self insurance premium.

## **ACTIVITY DESCRIPTIONS**

### **Administration**

The administration activity provides leadership in the development and implementation of effective and efficient programs at the Washington State School for the Blind (WSSB).

### **Braille Production and Distribution**

This division assists school districts in meeting the needs of blind and visually impaired children. Services include the production of Braille material for children (and adults); acquisition and distribution of materials and equipment; coordination of purchases for better pricing; and direct and on-line support, including training on new assistive technology. It also trains inmates to produce Braille. (General Fund-State, General Fund-Private/Local)

### **Intensive Training Opportunities**

The school provides an extended core curriculum for blind and visually impaired children that focuses on skills relating to orientation and mobility, daily living, and recreation and leisure. Between 48 and 52 students reside in cottages on the campus.

### **Off-Campus Services to Students/Districts**

Approximately one-sixth of school districts in Washington contract with Outreach Services to obtain itinerant services (direct and consultative) by trained teachers of the blind. This enables districts to provide visually-impaired students with high-quality services in a cost-effective and efficient manner. (General Fund-State, General Fund-Private/Local)

### **On-Campus 24-Hour Educational Program**

As required by both state and federal law, the on-campus educational program in Vancouver offers short-term, 24-hour educational services to blind children, ages kindergarten to 21 years. In addition to academic instruction, students are taught necessary skills to achieve independence and successful transition into the community. The school has a two-year waiting list for admission. It also serves as an evaluation center for blind children throughout Washington. (General Fund-State, General Fund-Private/Local)

### **Student Transportation**

This activity provides for the transportation of students living at home in the Vancouver area and throughout the state. Students in the Vancouver area are transported by Educational Service District #112 (contracted service).

### **Other Statewide Adjustments**

This item reflects proposed compensation and other adjustments that were not allocated to individual agency activities. The agency will assign these costs to the proper activities after the budget is enacted.